

Lesson #2: SIMPLE SUBJECTS and SIMPLE PREDICATES

Finding the Verbs and their Simple Subjects in order to Diagram Sentences

What we already know:

- The subject of a sentence tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about. The predicate tells what the subject does or is.

New:

In every sentence there are key words that form the basic framework of the sentence. The key word in the subject of a sentence is called the **simple subject**. It is the **subject** of the verb. The key word in the predicate is called the **simple predicate**. The simple predicate is the **verb**.

Definitions:

Simple subject= the key word (*a noun or pronoun!*) in the subject of a sentence.

Simple predicate= the key word (*the verb!*) in the predicate.

Example: The girl with the long hair fell down.

(*Girl* tells who fell down. It is the simple subject. *Fell* tells what the subject did. It is the simple predicate, or verb.)

GUIDED PRACTICE

Directions: In each sentence, underline the simple subject once and the verb twice.

1. The train from Seattle pulled into the station at three o'clock.
2. Leslie knitted a blue and white sweater for her dad.
3. Colorful seashells littered the deserted beach.
4. Almost all beekeepers wear protective masks.
5. Rain fell steadily all day long.

Since part of the writing process involves editing our work, we need to know how to recognize complete thoughts and how to vary our sentence structure. This makes our writing more coherent (meaning, clear and logical) as well as more interesting to read. Understanding the functions of parts of the speech in a sentence and their relationship to one another can be very helpful in learning to construct good sentences and therefore, good writing.

Sentence Diagramming: Why bother?

After you've identified the subject and predicate in a sentence, you then need to acknowledge that the purpose of the remaining words in a sentence serve to describe, clarify or give more information about that subject or the verb. **A diagram arranges the parts of a sentence like a picture in order to show the relationship of words and groups of words within the sentence. Let us take a look at how this is done.** We will begin learning how to diagram sentences and use this tool to become better writers. As we continue to study and practice with more grammatical rules and the parts of speech, our diagrams will become more complex. But for now, let's keep it simple. 😊

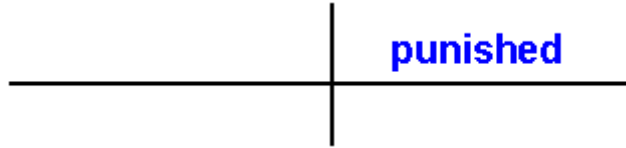
DIAGRAMMING SIMPLE SUBJECTS AND PREDICATES

Step #1:

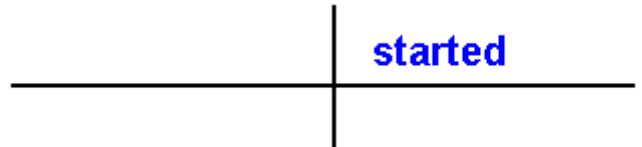
Find the SIMPLE PREDICATE in the sentence. (Look for the verb.) Ask yourself the question, "What action is taking place, or what happened in the sentence?" The answer you get will let you know which word (or group of words) serves as the verb in the sentence. THE VERB IS PLACED ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE BASE LINE.

Examples:

Aunt Polly punished Tom for ditching school.



Tom started a fight with the new boy in town.



PRACTICE STEP 1: Don't forget to draw a baseline for yourself!

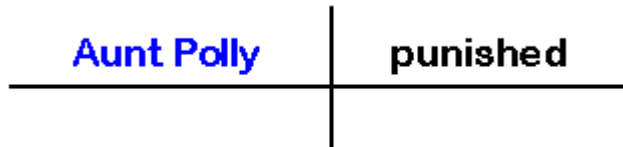
1. Tom's friends were painting the fence for him.
2. Huck Finn was a homeless boy.

Step #2:

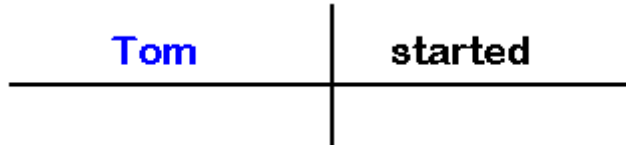
Find the SUBJECT of the verb. Ask yourself the question, "Who" or "What" performed the verb? The answer you get will let you know which word (or group of words) serves as the subject of the verb. THE SUBJECT IS PLACED ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BASE LINE.

Examples:

Aunt Polly punished Tom for ditching school.



Tom started a fight with the new boy in town.



PRACTICE STEP 2: Don't forget to draw a baseline for yourself!

3. Tom's friends were painting a fence for him.
4. Huck Finn was a homeless boy.